

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1 and 11 have been amended, and claims 12-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9 and 11 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

In the Office Action, at pages 2-5, claims 1-9 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nozuyama (USPN 5,862,359; hereafter, Nozuyama). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Independent claims 1 and 11 have been amended to recite, in part: "wherein one control signal line is not connected to two or more function blocks." It is respectfully submitted that Nozuyama does not disclose such a feature.

These claim amendments address the useful comments made by the Examiner in the Advisory Action. As previously stated:

It is respectfully submitted that in FIG. 1 of Nozuyama, no control lines are illustrated that extend from the bus switch 3 to the respective functional blocks in the manner as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly, in independent claim 11 of the present claimed invention. That is, the illustrated lines 21, 22, and 23 are busses, and are not control signal lines that are separate from each other and are connected to the respective functional blocks as claimed in claim 1, and similarly, in independent claims 11 of the present invention. For example, the bus 22 is NOT separately connected to the functional block 13 and the functional block 14. Thus, clearly, the busses 21, 22, and 23 do not read on the present claimed invention.

It is submitted that there need not be control signal lines in Nozuyama, as are claimed in claim 1, and similarly, in independent claims 11 of the present claimed invention. That is, it is clear to one skilled in the art that each functional block in FIG. 1 may include its own decoder therein which decodes addresses or access information supplied on the bus to generate control signals for use inside the functional block. In fact, the conspicuous absence of the separate

control signals extending from the bus switch 3 to the respective functional blocks strongly suggests that each functional block has its own decoder. It is respectfully submitted that there is no reason whatsoever to interpret FIG. 1 as showing the claimed control signal lines because it does not show them and does not even suggest there would be such control signal lines. A reasonable interpretation is that each functional block has its own decoder.

Claims 12-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Thus, amended independent claims 1 and 11 are submitted not to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Nozuyama (USPN 5,862,359). Since claims 2-9 depend from amended claim 1, claims 2-9 are submitted not to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Nozuyama (USPN 5,862,359) for at least the reasons that claim 1 is submitted not to be anticipated under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) by Nozuyama (USPN 5,862,359).

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

Serial No. 10/090,0822

Docket No. 1614.1221

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

April 19, 2005

By:

Darleen J. Stockley

Darleen J. Stockley
Registration No. 34,257

1201 New York Avenue, N.W.
Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501